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PETER PARKER™ SPIDER-MAN®

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#22

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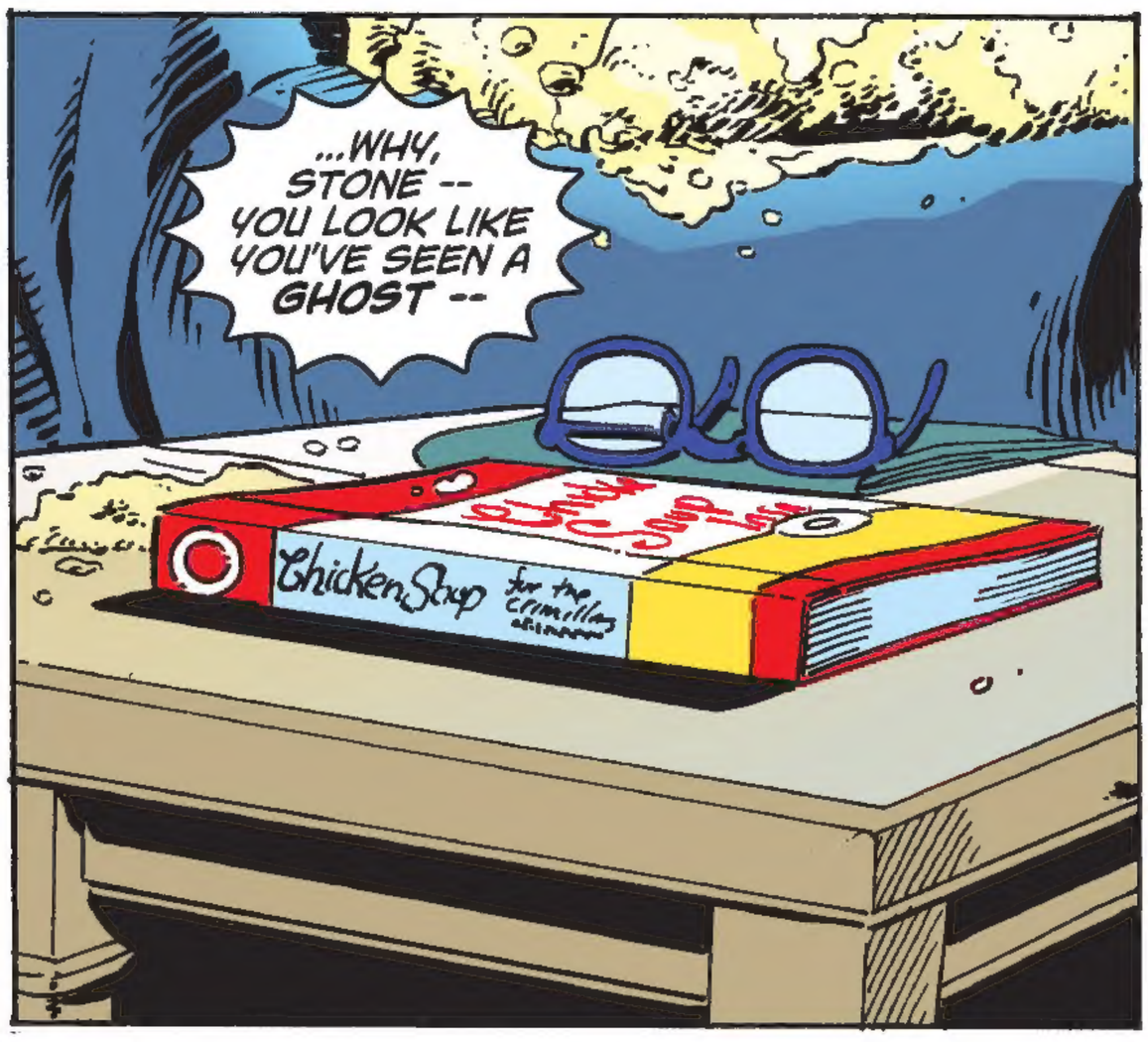

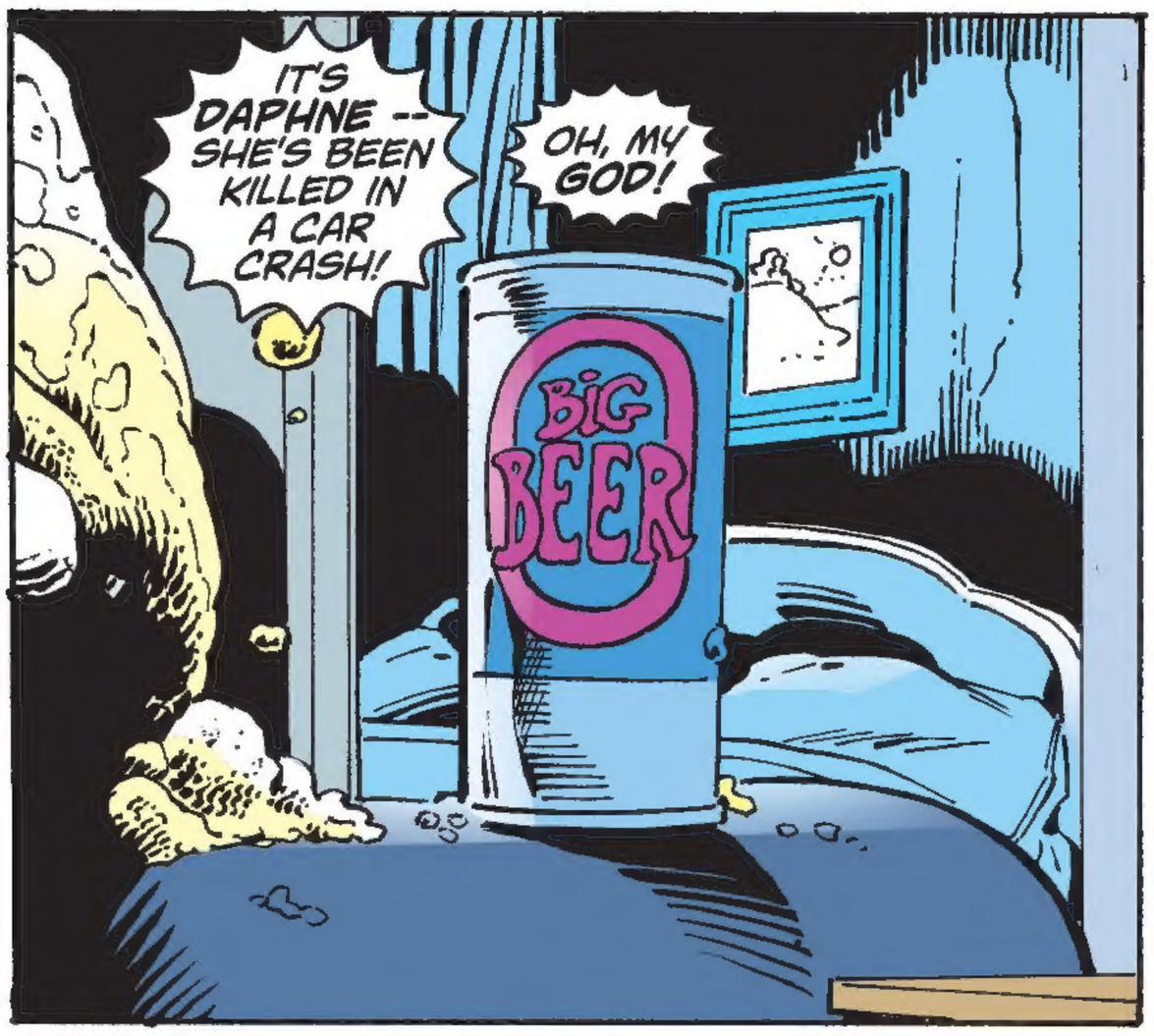

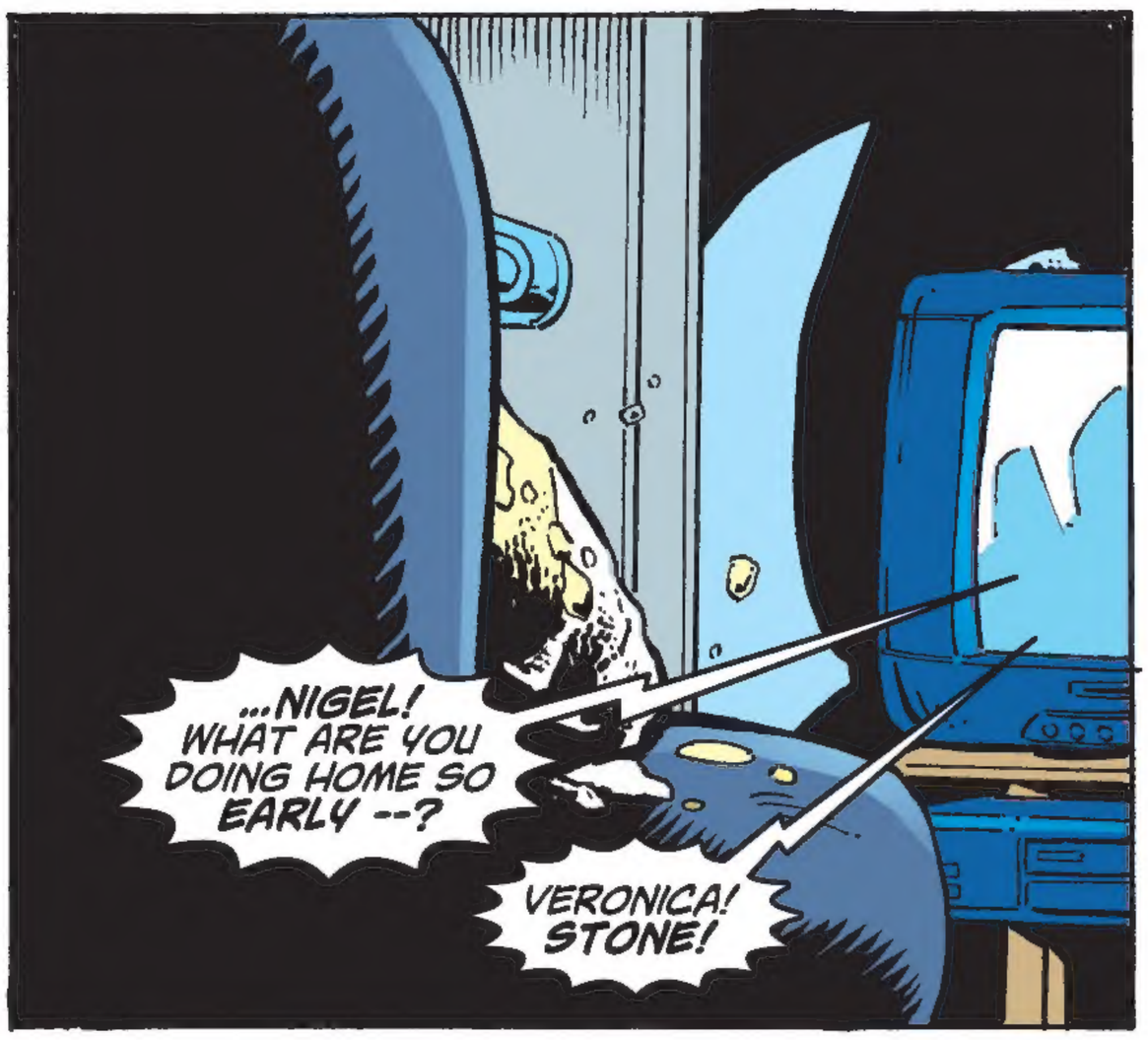

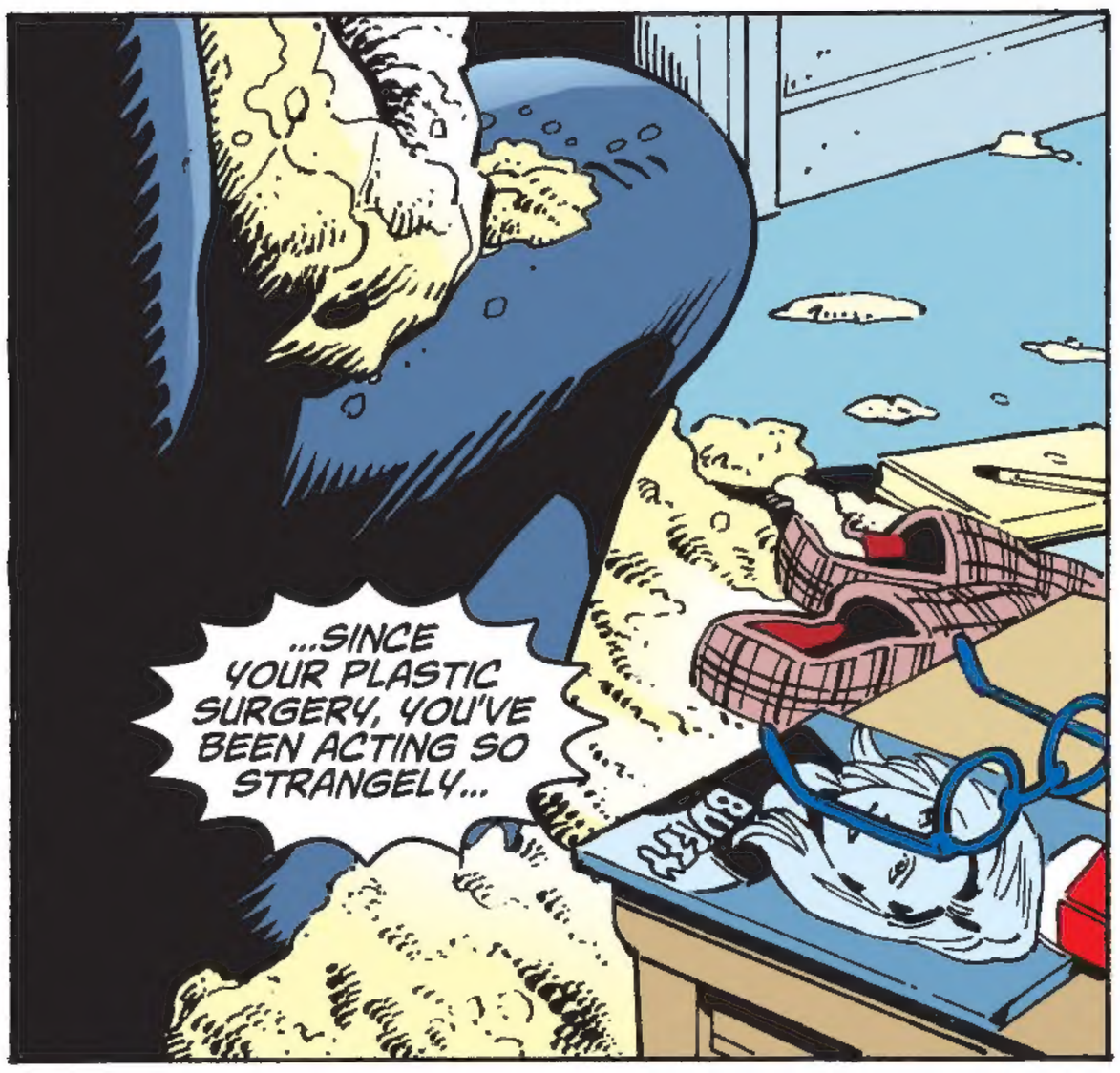

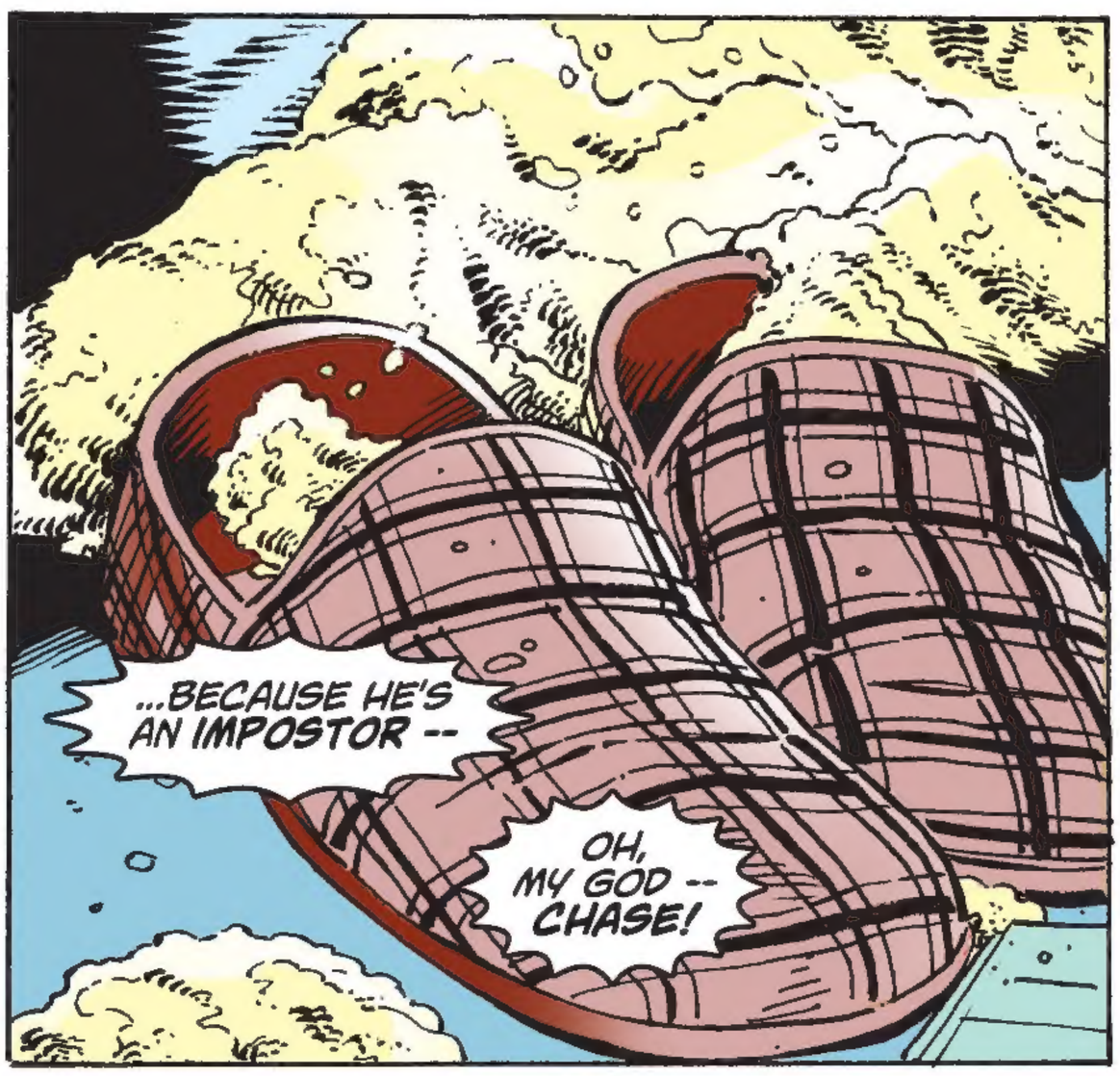

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...YES, I'VE SUSPECTED YOU ALL ALONG, BUT I COULD NEVER PROVE IT.

BUT WHY, NIGEL? WHY?

MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

NO, VERONICA... NIGEL'S BEEN **DEAD** FOR THREE YEARS. ALL THIS TIME, **I** WAS THE ONE BLACKMAILING YOU --

VIDEO +

OH, MY GOD -- **DAPHNE!**

MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

bum ba bum bum

BUCKY

LIKE SANDS THROUGH THE HOURGLASS, SO ARE THE --

VCR

VIDEO +

RRRIP

Chicken Soup for the Criminally Insane

Chicken Soup

AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRICKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN!

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

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I'M A *HERO.*

EVERY DAY, I STAND AT THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG -- A STANDARD-BEARER FOR THE DWINDLING ARMY OF THE GOOD GUYS. TO FIND THE CORRECT PATH -- THAT'S THE TASK I FACE.

EVERY DAY BEGINS WITH A *CHOICE.*

TODAY'S CHOICE, HOWEVER, COMPLETELY BITES: EITHER I FINALLY DEVOUR THE LAST PIECE OF FOOD ON MY SIDE OF THE FRIDGE (A PIECE OF MOLD-COVERED CHEESE NAMED KEVIN -- DON'T ASK!)...

...OR I STEAL FROM *RANDY'S* STASH, WHICH, QUITE FRANKLY, RESEMBLES AN OVERSTOCKED WAREHOUSE FROM THE GREAT FOOD RUSH OF *1839.*

HEY, KEV -- HOW'S THE EMPTY SIDE OF THE FRIDGE? *EMPTY?* WELL, GOOD FOR US.

REAL VANILLA ICE CREAM

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? JIMMY'S FALLEN INTO A TUB OF RANDY'S ICE CREAM AND CAN'T GET OUT? SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO *RESCUE* HIM? GOOD *BOY!*

AH, YES... THE ETERNAL CONFLICT OF GOOD VERSUS EVIL. THE NEVER-ENDING STRUGGLE OF THE SUPER HERO.

GOOD THING I'M OFF-DUTY.

...SCARAMOUCHE, SCARAMOUCHE, WILL YOU DO THE FANDANGO...

THIS MUST BE HOW IT IS TO FEEL LUCKY, I GUESS -- RANDY AT WORK, THE APARTMENT TO MYSELF, A NICE HOT SHOWER AND A TUB OF PLUNDERED ICE CREAM.

NOT TO MENTION SOME CLASSIC TUNES -- JUST THE THING TO GET ME IN THE MOOD FOR TODAY'S ECLECTIC MIX OF CRIME-FIGHTING AND JOB-HUNTING...

...GALILEO, GALILEO FIGARO MAGNIFICO-OH-OH-OH! I'M JUST A POOR BOY, NOBODY LOVES ME...

REAL VANILLA ICE CREAM

WELL, I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING I *DID* FORGET MY LICENSE, GLORY. YOU COMING BY TO SEE *PETE*?

YEAH... I FIGURED I'D TREAT THE POOR KID TO LUNCH -- HE'S BEEN HAVING SUCH A ROUGH TIME OF IT LATELY.

...BISMILLAH! NOOOO! WE WILL NOT LET YOU GO -- LET 'IM GOOO --!

WELL, MAYBE WE COULD *ALL* GO OUT SOMETIME... GAWD, WHAT IS GOING *ON* IN THERE?

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, *NO!* OH MAMA MIA, MAMA MIA MAMA MIA, LET ME GO! BEELZEBUB HAS A DEVIL PUT ASIDE FOR ME, FOR MEEE, FOR *MEEEEE!*

ICE CREAM

57th ST

DUNNO. SOUNDS *PAINFUL.*

HEY, PETE -- IT'S *US!* WE WAS JUST WONDERIN' --

OHH, BAYBEE! CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, BAYBEE! JUST GOTTA GET OUT, JUST GOTTA GET RIGHT OUTTA HE-*YUH*...!

WELL, I WASN'T EXPECTING *THAT*...!

MM.

...AND THE CROWD GOES HOME.

51st

8th AVE

...ANYONE CAN SEE... NOTHING REALLY MATTERS... TO *MEEEE*...

A-THANKYEW... THANKYEW VERY MUCH...

MY LAST WILL AND TESTIMENT -- BY WILLIUM BAKER, ALYAS THE SANDMAN, ALYAS FLINT MARKO...

DERE MOM, I WISH THAT I COOD *SEE* YOU RITE NOW, BUT I CANT. I HOPE YOU AR WELL. I AM NOT DOING SO GUD.

CHOMPF... -SNUCK-... MMF...

I HAV BEEN VERRY *SIK*. I THINK THAT MAYBEE I AM GOING TO DYE.

I HAV BEEN TRYING TO GET BETER, BUT I DONT THINK ITS ***WURKING.*** YOU ALWAYS SAY I SHUD ***EAT*** WHEN I AM SIK, SO I HAV BEEN...FOLLWO...FLOWLL...DOING THAT.

CEMENT

BUT I CANT KEEP ANYTHNIG ***DOWN.***

REESUNTLY, A BAD CRETURE NAMED ***VENUM*** BIT ME IN MY STOMICK, AND THATS WHY I GOT ***SIK.*** HE TOR OFF A PECE OF ME AND ***ATE*** IT.

AFTER THAT I COODNT KEEP MYSELF TUGH...TWOTHER...LIKE I WUZ ***BEFOR.*** SO WHILE VENUM WUZ FITING THE SPIDERMAN, I GOT AWAY.

IM TRYIN SO HARD TO BE ***GOOD.*** I MIS YOU VERRY MUCH. IF TIDDLES IS STIL ALIVE, PLEEZ GIV HIM A STROKE FOR MEE AND SAY "MEEYOW."

I HAF TO GO NOW. YOUR LUVING SON...WILLIUM. XXX

NNN... IT AIN'T WORKIN'. IT AIN'T STAYIN' *INSIDE.*

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. I'M GONNA MAKE YOU *PAY,* YOU *HEAR* ME?

I'M GONNA MAKE YOU PAY!

OHH...

MENTAL NOTE TO SELF: EYES BIGGER THAN BELLY -- ICE CREAM ALL GONE. FINE SELF ONE DOLLAR FOR GENERAL STUPIDITY.

IN ADDITION, TURKEY, SAUERKRAUT, PEANUTS AND ANCHOVIES ARE MUTUALLY ***EXCLUSIVE*** PHENOMENA, NOT TO BE EATEN IN THE SAME SANDWICH. FINE SELF EXTRA DOLLAR.

URGH.

IT'S LOOKING LIKE A ROUGH ONE. I HAVE A VERY BAD ***FEELING*** IN MY GUT, WHICH I ***REALLY*** HOPE IS INDIGESTION. EITHER THAT, OR THE OLD SPIDER-SENSE IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

ALTHOUGH AFTER WHAT ***I'VE*** JUST EATEN, I'M THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD PICK UP ONE OF THOSE HOME PREGNANCY TESTS, JUST TO BE ON THE ***SAFE*** SIDE --

KRAKOOM

OWW!

WHUD

SPLSH

AAUHH!

UH... IF THIS IS ABOUT THE ICE CREAM, I CAN *EXPLAIN* --

YOU DID THIS TO ME!

-:AH-HAHH:-... HEHH... THAT MAY'VE BEEN THE SINGLE FUNNIEST THING I EVER SAW IN MY *LIFE*. I C'N HARDLY *IMAGINE* WHAT HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW.

THE MIND BOGGLES.

YOU KNOW WHAT GOT ME? THAT REEDY LITTLE *VOICE* OF HIS! -:AH-HEHH:-... POOR GUY... HE SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS BEING *STRANGLED*.

HEY, HE'S NO PAVAROTTI! -- BUT YOU GOTTA ADMIT, THE DUDE GIVES ONE HECK OF A *PERFORMANCE*.

DOES HE DO THIS SORT OF THING *OFTEN*, RANDY? RUN AROUND THE APARTMENT STARK *NAKED*, I MEAN?

I DUNNO. *YOU* KNOW... THAT WAS A SIDE OF HIM I'VE NEVER *SEEN* BEFORE --

HAR! HA HA HA HA!

coffee CAFE

MENU

MENU

HEE! -:SNORT!:-

I'M GONNA GIT YOU *BACK* FER WHAT YOU DONE TO ME, SPIDER-MAN!

ME? WHAT'D I DO?

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE BLINDSIDING *VENOM*, OR SOMETHING? *HE'S* THE ONE WHO TOOK A BITE OUT OF *CRIME*, SO TO SPEAK --

LOOK AT ME, FER PETE'S SAKE! I'M FALLIN' *APART!*

UH-UH, SPIDER-MAN -- *YOU'RE* THE ONE RESPONSIBLE! I WOULDN'TA ENDED UP LIKE THIS IF IT WASN'T FER YOU!

C'MON, MAN... I CAN -- -WHUFF!-

NO! I AIN'T NEVER LISTENIN' TO YOU NO MORE. YOU'VE BROUGHT ME NOTHIN' BUT *TROUBLE* --

EEP.

GNK

LOOK, EVERYONE -- HOW A SUPER-VILLAIN EATS A REESE'S PEANUT BUTTER CUP!

YEAH... FUNNY. *FUNNY!* YOU AIN'T NO DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE -- THIS IS ALL A BIG *JOKE* TO YOU, *AIN'T* IT?

YOU SEE ME *LAUGHIN'*?

YOU SHOULDN'T *DO* THAT TO PEOPLE, SPIDER-MAN. IT AIN'T *NICE.*

YOU SHOULDN'T *LAUGH* AT PEOPLE --

OKAY, SANDMAN -- JOKE'S *OVER.* YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, I'M LISTENING.

-:HUFF:-... BUT *C'MON...* HOW ABOUT TELLING ME WHAT IT *IS,* OKAY?

NO, YOU WOULDN'T *UNDERSTAND.*

I WAS GONNA BE A *CONTENDER*. I WAS FINALLY GONNA GET OUTTA THE SEWER AN' *MAKE* SOMETHIN' OF MYSELF.

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S *REALLY* FUNNY? I TRIED TO DO WHAT YOU DO... AN' I *CAN'T*.

WHAT? I DON'T *GET* IT --

I *TOLDYA* YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! *'COURSE* NOT -- YOU'RE JUST A REGULAR MISTER DO-RIGHT!

WHAM

BEIN' A HERO IS A *PUSHOVER* FOR YOU. AIN'T YOU THE *PERFECT* ONE!

I'LL BET YOU WAS THE QUARTERBACK IN HIGH SCHOOL... ALL THEM PRETTY GIRLS *AFTER* YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER ONCE GOT THAT PRISSY LITTLE UNIFORM DIRTY.

I'LL BET YOU NEVER DID A DAY'S WORK SINCE THE DAY YOU WAS *BORN*. YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST SOME BORED *MILLIONAIRE* WHO GETS HIS KICKS FROM INTERFERIN' WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.

WHAM

I'LL BET YOU GOT A PERFECT WIFE, AN' TWO POINT THREE KIDS, AN' A DOG CALLED *BUDDY*. AN' WHEN YOU GET HOME TONIGHT, SHE'LL HAVE A PERFECT DINNER WAITIN' FOR YOU.

I'LL BET YOU NEVER HAD NOTHIN' GO WRONG IN YOUR ENTIRE *LIFE!*

UHH... IS *THAT* WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT? YOU'RE ALL MAD BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT IN THE BOY SCOUTS?

YOU C'N ***LAUGH*** ALL YOU WANT, BUT YOU THINK IT'S ***SO EASY,*** SPIDER-MAN? YOU THINK I ***WANTED*** MY LIFE TO BE THIS WAY?

I ***TRIED,*** OKAY? I TRIED BEIN' GOOD A LOT HARDER'N YOU OR ANYONE ELSE'LL EVER GIVE ME ***CREDIT*** FOR. I WAS GONNA DO THE RIGHT THING FOR ***ONE TIME*** IN MY LIFE.

MY MOM WAS GONNA BE PROUD. BUT I COULDN'T ***DO*** IT -- NOT LIKE ***YOU*** DO!

I... I GUESS THAT'S THE HARD PART ABOUT TH' HERO GAME, HUH?

KEEPIN' IT ***TOGETHER.***

AAUHH... YOU TELL MY MOM...

...I TRIED, OKAY?

SANDMAN --

...HHH... SORRY, BUD... I CAN'T *DO* THIS NO MORE...

...JUS' PROMISE YOU'LL *TELL* HER, OKAY...?

...THAT FLINT MARKO GUY... HE WAS A BAD MAN... I NEVER *WANTED* TO BE HIM...

...I WAS ALWAYS WILLIAM *BAKER*...

AW, *NUTS*.

POOR GUY. HE MUST'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THAT HIS TIME WAS UP.

AS THE LAST REMNANTS OF THE SANDMAN WASH DOWN INTO THE NEW YORK SEWER SYSTEM, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW IT MUST HAVE FELT.

HE JUST WANTED TO DO BETTER. AND WHEN HE FOUND OUT IT WAS TOO HARD, HE CRUMBLED.

HEY, YOU! STAY RIGHT THERE!

SO ARE THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES, I GUESS.

"SO ARE THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES...

WELL, LOOK... THE PERFECT SANDY SPOT. HURRY UP, RALPH! THE DAY'S NOT GETTING ANY *YOUNGER*, YOU KNOW.

I KNOW, GLORIA.

OHH... I DO SO HATE HAVING TO WALK ALL THIS WAY JUST TO GET SOME *PRIVACY*. SOMEONE REALLY OUGHT TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

YES, DEAR.

YOU KNOW... I DON'T RECALL ALL THIS NICE SAND BEING HERE THE LAST TIME WE CAME. ARE YOU SURE IT'S THE SAME STRETCH OF BEACH?

YES, DEAR.

WELL, I WONDER WHERE IT ALL *CAME* FROM?

THE END